

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8856

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 4178

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGSC PINT, LE

SUBJ: LEBANON: VIEWS OF BASHIR GEMAYEL

1. GERMAN AMBASSADOR VON PACHELBEL HAS GIVEN ME ACCOUNT OF LONG CONVERSATION HE HAD WITH BASHIR GEMAYEL JULY 22. HE WENT TO SEE BASHIR IN EFFORT TO CONVINCE HIM BE MORE COOPERATIVE WITH SARKIS. FOLLOWING ARE SOME OF BASHIR'S REACTIONS OF INTEREST.

2. ISRAELIS. BASHIR WANTED TO KNOW WITH SOME HEAT WHY ISRAELIS HAD NOT INTERVENED DURING RECENT FIGHTING. WAY IN WHICH HE PUT QUESTION IMPLIED, IN PACHELBEL'S VIEW, THAT HE HAD EXPECTED THEM TO DO SO, AND THAT HE HAD BEEN LED TO THOSE EXPECTATIONS BY THE ISRAELIS.

3. SOUTH LEBANON. BASHIR HAD OPPOSED ENTRY OF LEBANESE ARMY INTO SOUTH BECAUSE IT WOULD MEAN CLOSURE OF GOOD FENCE AND MARONITES NEEDED THAT LINK WITH ISRAELIS.

4. SARKIS. SARKIS WAS IMPOSSIBLE AND WOULD HAVE TO GO. HE COULD NOT AND WOULD NOT TAKE DECISIONS. WHEN PACHELBEL HAD REMONSTRATED THAT BASHIR HIMSELF HAD MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR
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HIM TO TAKE MANY DECISIONS, BASHIR HAD RESPONDED THAT PHALANGE WAS IN REVOLUTIONARY STAGE.

5. SYRIANS. BASHIR HAD SAID SYRIANS MUST LEAVE LEBANON. THEIR PROVOCATIONS AND REPRESSIVE ACTIONS AGAINST CHRISTIANS MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR LATTER TO SUPPORT THEIR CONTINUED PRESENCE. PACHELBEL HAD POINTED OUT THAT FROM THE INITIAL

ENTRY OF THE SYRIANS INTO ASHRAFIYAH, BASHIR HAD TAKEN POSITION THAT THEY WERE THERE TO PROTECT OTHERS, NOT THE PHALANGE, WHICH COULD PROTECT ITSELF. PHALANGE HAD MADE LIFE DIFFICULT FOR SYRIANS AND LATTER WERE REACTING. BASHIR HAD TANEN POINT.

6. ARMY IN BEIRUT. BASHIR MAINTAINED THAT SOLUTION TO PRESENT CRISIS WAS INTRODUCTION OF LEBANESE ARMY INTO BEIRUT TO REPLACE SYRIANS. PACHELBEL HAD NOTED THAT AT PRESENT ARMY WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO WEST BEIRUTIS. BASHIR HAD SUGGESTED THAT ADF STAY IN WEST BEIRUT AND LEBANESE ARMY TAKE OVER EASTERN SECTOR OF CITY.

7. COMMENT: WE HAVE BEEN AVOIDING CONTACT WITH BASHIR AND PIERRE GEMAYEL AND WITH CAMILLE CHAMOUN FOR PAST FEW WEEKS FOR FEAR THAT THEY WOULD PLAY UP SUCH CONTACTS AS EVIDENCE OF US SUPPORT FOR THEIR POSITION. THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT THESE LEADERS ARE INCREASINGLY BITTER ABOUT OUR ROLE AND FEEL DESERTED BY THE WEST. WHILE WE DO NOT WANT TO ENCOURAGE THEIR HARDLINING, WE NEED TO KEEP SOME CONTACT WITH THEM, AND I WILL BEGIN A FEW CAUTIOUS CONTACTS THIS WEEK BY ONE MEANS OR ANOTHER. PARKER

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